

will trace the process by which the 523 Methodists reported on the Redstone Circuit in 1786 have grown to the present number of more than 130,000 members of the Methodist Church in the Pittsburgh Conference territory. That complete story will tell of the growth from 1800, where this story ends, until 1825 when the Pittsburgh Conference was formed; it will tell how three other great Conferences have been mothered by Pittsburgh Conference Methodism; and it will permanently record numerous matters the significance of which merit a better fate than historic oblivion.

*Trafford, Pennsylvania*

WALLACE GUY SMELTZER

*The Monongahela: The River and Its Region.* By RICHARD T. WILEY, Litt.D., Author of "Sim Greene and Tom the Tinker's Men," "The Whisky Insurrection," "Early Western Pennsylvania," "Elizabeth and Her Neighbors," etc. ([Butler, Pa., The Ziegler Company, 1937.] 257 p. Illustration.)

*The Allegheny River.* By MRS. S. KUSSART, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Pittsburgh, Pa., Burgum Printing Company, 1938. 342 p. Maps, illustrations.)

THESE books have even more in common than the obvious fact that each traces and enlarges upon the influence of an outstanding factor in the opening up, development, and later history of the trans-Allegheny region. Neither of the authors is a professional historian, though each has previously made useful contributions to the published records of western Pennsylvania history and lore, and with each, his or her present work has been largely a labor of love. Each necessarily repeats some of the oft told stories of the beginnings of human occupation of the region about the headwaters of the Ohio, but both—with variable success, perhaps, in respect of logic, balance, and definitiveness of treatment—have presented new syntheses of useful data about the special aspects and the more recent phases of the rivers' histories. Each draws upon primary as well as secondary sources, including, among the former, contemporary newspapers, directories, yearbooks, and government reports.

Dr. Wiley needs no introduction as the leading lay historian of the Monongahela Valley, where he has spent most of his four-score years, with eyes constantly open for light on the region's past, present, and future, and with the production of the present volume in view for a quarter of a century. He has succeeded admirably in his avowed purpose of presenting an interesting and

authentic, but not critical or heavily documented, account of the valley's history, though one may question an occasional statement of fact such as his reference to the first attempt at a fortification at the Forks of the Ohio as "Fort Trent" (p. 31) rather than Fort Prince George. The story opens with an excellent description of the Monongahela country, including an impressive list of the characteristics that have made and still make it notable, followed by accounts of the earliest visitors, the beginnings of settlement, the appearance of roads, ferries, and bridges, and the valley as the scene of events of the French and Indian War, the Revolution, the Pennsylvania-Virginia boundary controversy, and the Whiskey Insurrection. About half of the book is quite properly devoted to chapters on boat-building, the successive eras of the flatboat, keelboat, and steamboat, and on the production and shipment of the principal bulk products of the valley, coal and coke. Interspersed among the chapters are "close-ups" of life along the river, in the form of "Random Notes and Anecdotes," and the whole concludes with a chapter on "The River in Story and Song."

*The Allegheny River* by Mrs. Kussart—daughter of a former river steamboat captain and owner, and historian of the Allegheny River Improvement Association—is also the product of years of research. The result is an exceptionally detailed account of the river—its physiography, its early history, its boatmen, its uses, and its development for navigation and flood-control purposes. Accounts of the commerce borne by it and of the industries it has spawned or served naturally loom large—accounts of the building and evolution of river craft and of the manufacture or extraction and shipment of salt, iron, lumber, oil, sand and gravel, and aluminum. Two maps of the region, done by United States engineers of the Pittsburgh district, pictures of river craft, lists, and statistics add to the interest and usefulness of the work, but unfortunately it lacks an index.

F. F. H.

*Moccasins in the Wilderness.* By ELIZABETH HAWTHORN BUCK. (Philadelphia, The Penn Publishing Company, 1938. 238 p. Illustrations.)

"*Hello, the Boat!*" By PHYLLIS CRAWFORD. (New York, Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1938. 227 p. Illustrations.)

THESE books are of the kind that enthusiastic grownups write for children, with the result that grownups often enjoy them more than children. Their